

From: Paul Rippey
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Imagine that Ford also made highways and gas stations, then got enough of the market so they could manipulate the technology and somehow make cars that worked better on their own highways, and ran better on their own gas stations. Ford would make half-hearted efforts to let other car manufacturers have their secret codes for adapting their own cars to the Ford highways and gas, but the others would know that there would always be new versions coming out, and that Ford would always have information first, and would not introduce the new highways until their cars were perfectly tuned for them. The situation is analogous in software. Please continue reading.

Dear Department of Justice,

My understanding is that you have solicited public comments on the MicroSoft case from consumers. I am a consumer and have a particular experience to share.

I believe that MicroSoft has been able to manipulate their operating system monopoly into a monopoly in other areas. A case in point: It is a problem for me that there is only, essentially, one word processor on the market. Since there are millions of computer users, and word processors are relatively easy to program, and tastes vary, this is a distortion.

I have used MicroSoft products for around fifteen years, I like some, and I don't like others. That seems like the way things should be in a competitive market. I personally find the word processor Word to be overkill. It has countless features that I don't want or need, and it does not do the things I want particularly well. I recognize that there might be other users who love it, which is fine. My problem is, as a Mac user, I have no choice. None. Because the Word file format is the standard, and it is very difficult to open Word documents perfectly, I am obliged to have Word on my computer.

I have now upgraded my principal Mac to system OSX and want to upgrade my other software. The MS Office upgrade costs \$250. My wife has a second computer, and I use one at the office also. That is \$750 that will eventually be paid to MicroSoft for UPGRADES, not even buying the original program. Intuitively, this is more than the market price would be if there were competition. Like I say, it is heavy burden.

I believe that the MicroSoft monopoly constitutes a heavy burden on me and on the rest of the American Public, and the proposed

settlement is too little and too late. Nothing in the proposed settlement makes me think that things will change in any substantial way.

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